

amended for the purpose of ensuring proper dependency on claim 14. A marked-up version of the claims showing all changes is attached as Appendix A.

1. A disposable absorbent article comprising:
 - a liquid permeable top sheet;
 - a liquid impermeable back sheet; and
 - an absorbent layer disposed between said top sheet and said back sheet and comprising super absorbent polymer granules directly adhered to said back sheet by an adhesive.
2. The article of Claim 1, wherein said top sheet comprises a material selected from the group consisting of porous foams, apertured films, natural fibers and plastic synthetic fibers.
3. The article of Claim 1, wherein said back sheet comprises a film selected from the group consisting of extruded polyethylene and extruded polypropylene.
4. The article of Claim 1, wherein said super absorbent polymer is a cross-linked sodium polyacrylate.
5. The article of Claim 1, wherein said super absorbent polymer is an acidic super absorbent polymer.
6. The article of Claim 1, wherein said adhesive is selected from the group consisting of organic adhesives, vegetable adhesives and synthetic adhesives.

7. The article of Claim 6, wherein said synthetic adhesives are selected from the group consisting of thermo-setting adhesives, thermoplastic resins and elastomeric adhesives.

8. The article of Claim 1, wherein the article has a thickness of between about 0.015 and 0.025 inches.

9. A packaged roll of disposable articles comprising a plurality of absorbent pads, selectively separable from one another, each said pad including a liquid-permeable top sheet, a liquid-impermeable back sheet, and an absorbent layer disposed there between and defined solely by super absorbent polymer granules directly adhered to said back sheet.

10. The roll of Claim 9, wherein said top sheet comprises a material selected from the group consisting of porous foams, apertured films, natural fibers and plastic synthetic fibers.

11. The roll of Claim 9, wherein said back sheet comprises a film selected from the group consisting of extruded polyethylene and extruded polypropylene.

12. The roll of Claim 9, wherein said super absorbent polymer is a cross-linked sodium polyacrylate.

13. The roll of Claim 9, wherein said super absorbent polymer is an acidic super absorbent polymer.

14. The roll of Claim 9, wherein said adhesive is selected from the group consisting of organic adhesives, vegetable adhesives and synthetic adhesives.

16. (Amended) The roll of Claim 14, wherein said synthetic adhesives are selected from the group consisting of thermo-setting adhesives, thermoplastic resins and elastomeric adhesives.

17. The roll of Claim 9, wherein said pads are selectively separable from one another along a transverse score line.

18. The roll of Claim 9, wherein each pad has a thickness of between about 0.015 and 0.025 inches.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein is respectfully requested for the reasons discussed herein. The Examiner has objected to claim 15 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. The Examiner has also rejected claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 based upon the disclosures of U.S. Patent No. 5,766,388 (Pelley), U.S. Patent No. 5,433,994 (McKinney) and U.S. Patent No. 4,900,377 (Redford).

As discussed in more detail below, claim 15 has been cancelled and claim 16 has been amended to ensure proper dependency on claim 14. With regard to the remaining claims, applicant believes that independent claims 1 and 9 define structures that are not found in the prior art. In particular, the prior art neither discloses nor suggests the use of superabsorbent polymers (SAPs) directly adhered to a liquid-impermeable backing sheet in the context of a disposable absorbent pad having a liquid-permeable top sheet. Further, the prior art also does not disclose or suggest the use of acidic SAPs in connection with applicant's claimed invention. Finally, the prior art does not suggest applicant's claimed invention, having a plurality of absorbent pads in a packaged roll form. Accordingly, applicant submits that all of the remaining claims are patentably distinguishable over the prior art and that the application is condition for allowance.